

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 CIEP-02

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-03 INR-10

INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01 SAM-01

SCI-06 SP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15

IO-14 DRC-01 /186 W

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R 201655Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0116

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, FR

SUBJECT: ENERGY POLICY OF GISCARD GOVERNMENT - VIEWS OF
BRUNET

1. IN A CONVERSATION WITH ECON/COM MIN, BRUNET, DIRECTOR
OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, MFA, GAVE A PERSONAL ASSESSMENT OF
WHAT HE THOUGHT THE POLICY OF THE GISCARD GOVERNMENT ON
INTERNATIONAL ENERGY COOPERATION WOULD BE. HE EMPHASIZED
HOWEVER, THAT GISCARD
HAD NOT YET HAD TIME TO CONSIDER
THIS QUESTION AND THAT THEREFORE HIS VIEWS COULD NOT BE
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CONSIDERED AN OFFICIAL EXPRESSION OF FRENCH POLICY.

2. CONSUMER-PRODUCER RELATIONS - BRUNET SAID THE GOF HAD ALWAYS FAVORED DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS ON OIL SUPPLY AND PRICE PROBLEMS. HOWEVER, IT HAD OPPOSED OUR PROPOSAL THAT THE CONSUMERS BE REPRESENTED IN THE CONSUMER-PRODUCER DIALOGUE BY THE ECG SINCE IT FEARED THIS WOULD LOOK TO THE ARABS AS IF THE PRODUCERS WERE GANGING UP ON THEM. HENCE THE FRENCH PREFERENCE FOR MEETING IN THE UN. BRUNET SAID THAT THE FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR A WORLD ENERGY CONFERENCE HAD BEEN SUBSUMED INTO THE SIXTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNGA AND AS A SEPARATE PROPOSAL COULD BE CONSIDERED DEAD. HE NOTED WITH SOME REGRET THAT THE FRENCH PROPOSALS ON ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERSESSIONAL FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE AND A RESOURCE MONITORING BODY HAD NOT BEEN ACTIVELY ESPOUSED AT THE SIXTH SPECIAL SESSION, WHICH HAD REMANDED THEM TO ECOSOC FOR CONSIDERATION. HE ALSO NOTED YAMANI'S PROPOSAL AT THE SIXTH SPECIAL SESSION FOR A CONSUMER-PRODUCER DIALOGUE LIMITED TO A RELATIVELY SMALL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS. HE SAID GOF SHARED OUR RESERVATIONS ABOUT ACCOMPLISHING ANYTHING IN A PLENARY UN BODY. IT HAD ALWAYS BEEN THE FRENCH IDEA THAT THE UN WOULD SERVE ONLY AS A LOOSE SUPERSTRUCTURE FOR THE DIALOGUE, WHICH WOULD TAKE PLACE IN A MUCH MORE LIMITED FORUM WITHIN THE UN. HE THOUGHT THAT BETWEEN YAMANI'S PROPOSAL AND THE CONTACTS WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE IN ECOSOC ON THE SUBJECT, IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR THE U.S. AND FRANCE TO BURY THE HATCHET WITHOUT ANYBODY LOSING FACE AND TO WORK OUT A CONSTRUCTIVE FORMULA FOR AN EVENTUAL CONSUMER-PRODUCER

MEETING.

3. ENERGY ACTION PROGRAM - BRUNET SAID FRANCE WAS AS STRONGLY COMMITTED TO INTERNATIONAL ENERGY COOPERATION AS EVER AND THAT HE STILL BELIEVED THAT THE RIGHT PLACE TO DO THIS WORK WAS IN THE OECD. HE THOUGHT THAT THIS WOULD ALSO BE THE VIEW OF GISCARD. HE SAID HE FULLY UNDERSTOOD OUR CONCERN ABOUT THE UNWIELDINESS OF THE OECD BUT BELIEVED THAT THE PERFORMANCE OF THE THREE AD HOC ENERGY GROUPS SET UP UNDER THE HLG HAD SHOWN THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE OECD CAN ACT EFFECTIVELY WHEN IT HAS TO. HE SAID HE THOUGHT IT WAS UNFORTUNATE THAT SOME AD HOC GROUPS WERE

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IN THE OECD AND OTHERS WERE OUT. HE HOPED THAT IN TIME IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO BRING ALL OF THE GROUPS INTO THE OECD, THUS PERMITTING FRANCE AND THE U.S. TO BURY THE HATCHET IN THIS AREA AS WELL.

4. EC ENERGY POLICY - BRUNET SAID THE GOF WAS ENCOURAGED BY PROGRESS IN THE EC TOWARD AGREEMENT ON A COMMUNITY ENERGY POLICY WHOSE OBJECTIVE WOULD BE MAXIMUM INDEPENDENCE FROM OUTSIDE SOURCES OF SUPPLY. HE DID NOT EXPECT THAT THE POLICY THE COMMUNITY FINALLY AGREED ON

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WOULD BE EPOCH-MAKING BUT HE BELIEVED IT WOULD BE USEFUL AND HE SAID THE GOF WOULD PUSH HARD FOR AGREEMENT. HE HOPED THAT NO ONE (E.G., THE U.S.) WOULD ARGUE THAT THE COMMUNITY'S PROGRAM FOR MAXIMIZING ITS ENERGY INDEPENDENCE OUGHT TO BE DEVELOPED IN THE ECG CONTEXT RATHER THAN IN THE COMMUNITY CONTEXT.

5. COMMENT: THERE IS NOT EVEN A HINT IN THE FOREGOING TO SUPPORT PRESS REPORTS THAT THE GOF IS CONSIDERING JOINING THE ECG AND OUR OWN VIEW CONTINUES TO BE THAT THIS WILL NOT HAPPEN. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE BELIEVE THERE IS A GOOD CHANCE THE GOF WOULD BE WILLING TO ASSOCIATE ITSELF WITH A FOLLOW-ON MECHANISM IF IT WAS CLEAR THAT IT WAS NOT MERELY A PROLONGATION OF THE ECG AND IF A DEFINITE LINK WITH THE OECD WAS ESTABLISHED.
STONE

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